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Allen W. Dulles, Public Servant Par Excellence

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Allen W. Dulles has stepped down, at the age of 67 years, from his nerve center post as director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

President Kennedy in making the announcement was emphatic in stating Mr. Dulles was not retiring under duress but that it was a decision reached by the C.I.A. head sometime ago.

"I know of no man who is a more courageous, selfless public servant than Mr. Allen Dulles," the President said. "His desire to return to private life is a matter of profound regret to me."

It was a thoughtful gesture on the part of the President to make it clear Mr. Dulles was not being eased out of office as the aftermath of the Cuban invasion debacle. The report that he would be so relieved was given wide publicity in recent months.

The successor to the 10-year occupant of the C.I.A. top job is John A. McCone, former chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission under President Eisenhower and under secretary of the Air Force under President Truman and by no means a governmental green pea. Mr. McCone is a top administrator. He is a Republican and was a strong supporter of Richard M. Nixon in the last campaign. The fact he was named by President Kennedy is pretty good proof the Chief Executive was looking for ability. Mr. Dulles and Mr. McCone are close friends and the transition will be achieved under the best of circumstances.



ALLEN DULLES

It is about time some public acknowledgment of the debt the American people owe to Allen Welsh Dulles was made.

Here is the man who took U. S. intelligence services out of the amateurish, hit-or-miss category and made them into a smooth, highly coordinated operation of wide ramifications and effectiveness.

There have always been intelligence agencies in the U. S. government. George Washington had one.

But they were scattered through the armed services, the State Department and the secret services without proper coordination and too often without liaison.

The directors of these operations, in the armed services, were chosen as a tour of duty — when time came for an admiral or general to take other service to win promotion another man stepped in.

The result was little formal policy definitely proved knowledge.

We did not even know the size of the Japanese navy when World War II commenced.

The U. S. often depended on the British foreign office for accurate intelligence. This was the situation when President Eisenhower appointed Mr. Dulles director of C.I.A. in 1953.

Mr. Dulles had rendered invaluable "look and dagger" service in World War II and was credited with bringing out surrender of the German armies in Italy from his Geneva post.

In the ensuing eight years a formidable world-wide service has been built with a Pentagon-sized headquarters in suburban Washington, thousands of employees, and such a complex system finding out things our government didn't know that the point has been hed where every mishap in Communist countries is blamed on Mr. Dulles. I am sure some of these complaints have a basis of truth — the U-2 matter for example.

But we no longer have the intelligence reputation in foreign chancellories of having a strong back and a thick skull.

The C.I.A. deals in many matters besides secret data. It has every type of computer, photographic gadget, and card indexing device imaginable. Its machine-translation computers can give high speed service at the rate of 30,000 words an hour.

Equally important it has put an end to duplication, although service intelligence agencies still exist.

It is responsible for national security to a degree not generally appreciated because its work is secret.

C.I.A. is directly accountable to the President mainly through the National Security Council.

Mr. Dulles has rendered such outstanding service in perfecting the C.I.A. machinery in the last eight years that I developed a terrific burn when he was being accused of responsibility in Cuba and I wrote him and asked permission to tell his story and as much of the background and experience of the C.I.A. as was within security limitations.

His reply is on my desk.

"Your interest in C.I.A., particularly to help put it in its proper perspective, is indeed appreciated," he wrote. "There are, however, limitations by statute, as well as valuable cooperation with foreign intelligence units that limit our cooperation in such an endeavor. For example, we cannot by law give the size of our organization. We cannot by law give past triumphs and endeavors because we would reveal intelligence sources and intelligence methods. Silence is necessary if we are to be effective. I am enclosing a pamphlet initially issued in 1953 and revised last month which may prove of interest to you. I would be delighted to discuss this whole matter with you sometime when you are in Washington."

It is quite probable the real story of the development of American intelligence under Mr. Dulles never can be told.

Unlike a President or other high official he cannot tell what he has done. It is forbidden by law.

But many officials close to the federal scene know and, more important, our enemies know to their extreme